

# Lake County Public Land Acquisition Program



# Program Focus Areas

- Three main focus areas:
  - Water Resources - recharge, floodplain function, aquifers and springs
  - Environmentally Sensitive Lands - listed species, ecosystems, natural corridors
  - Recreation Lands - resource-based, greenways & blueways, green space, historical & cultural

# Program History

- Referendum passed in November, 2004
  - Passed by 70% of voters
  - Ability to issue \$36M in bonds
- Public Land Acquisition Advisory Council (PLAAC) appointed by the BCC
  - Nine members - working knowledge in biology, geology, recreation, history and culture
  - Developed site evaluation criteria - primary, enhancement and management
- Public Lands Management Division created in September, 2005

# Acquisition Process

- Property owners or representatives ("Nominators") submit application to Public Lands Management Division (PLM)
  - Application available on County website ([www.lakegovernment.com](http://www.lakegovernment.com))
- Application is reviewed by PLM staff as to completeness and as to meeting acquisition criteria
  - Property must meet a minimum of four (4) of the 13 Primary Site Evaluation Criteria - based on main focus areas

# Acquisition Process

- PLM staff performs site visit to verify that property meets the Primary Site Evaluation Criteria as stated
- PLM staff produces a staff evaluation with recommendation as to acquisition priority - acquire, acquire at a later date, do not acquire
- Application and staff evaluation are reviewed by the PLAAC members, individually

# Acquisition Process

- The PLAAC, as a group, makes a recommendation as to the property's acquisition priority
  - Discussed and voted on at monthly meeting
  - Can request that the due diligence process, appraisal, title, survey, environmental assessment(s), begin
- The Board of County Commissioners ultimately decides whether to acquire or not
  - Acquisition process follows established County procedures

# Acquired Properties

- Management Plan
  - Does the Property Have...
    - Exotic or nuisance vegetative species?
    - Listed plant or animal species?
    - Wetlands or surface waters?
  - What are...
    - Existing or historic upland ecosystems?
    - Existing and/or potential perturbations?
  - Has the Property...
    - Been fire-suppressed?
    - Been mechanically altered?
    - Been vegetatively altered (e.g. agriculture or silviculture)?

# Acquired Properties

- Management Plan is Developed to Address Issues:
  - Exotic vegetation removal
  - Manage for listed species
  - Protect/enhance wetlands, surface waters and floodplains
  - Maintain existing ecosystems; Restore historic ecosystems
  - Remove or minimize perturbations
  - Re-introduce fire through prescribed burns
  - Grade landscape to more natural/historic conditions
  - Assess agricultural/silvicultural operations for possible restoration



# Acquired Properties

- Infrastructure - What activities are planned for the property? What can Management Plan accommodate?
  - Swimming
    - Safe access
    - Changing facilities/sanitary facilities
  - Trails
    - Hiking, biking, equestrian or multi-use (internal)
    - Trailhead to existing trail
  - Canoeing, kayaking
    - Launch facilities/Rental facilities
    - Docking
  - Fishing
    - Pier

# Acquired Properties

- Infrastructure - Continued
  - Nature Study
    - Interpretative signage
    - Separate walking trail
  - Bird Watching
    - Interpretative signage
    - Viewing/Observation platforms
  - Camping
    - Campsites
    - Sanitary facilities
    - Picnic tables
    - Potable water

# Acquired Properties

- Planned Activities
  - Group Camps
    - Boy/Girl Scouts
  - Guided Nature Tours
  - Canoe/Kayak Events
  - Cross-Country Races
  - Equestrian Events
- Also need to consider parking, site security, infrastructure maintenance, liability issues and, possibly, stormwater and other permitting issues